

Message Text

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SUBJ: POPULATION: FPIA GRANT AID/CSD 3289

REF: REF: A. STATE 279758, B. STATE 270160, C. AIDTO

UNN. 11/6/74

1. CANNOT RPT NOT CONCUR IN OR RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF SUBJECT GRANT AT THIS TIME.

2. ALTHOUGH HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO INVESTIGATE PROPOSAL TO EXTENT DESIRABLE DUE UNAVAILABILITY OF SOME KEY PEOPLE, OSARACE/MASERU OBSERVATIONS AND INFORMATION GATHERED TO DATE RAISE A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS:

3. IN GENERAL

A. LESOTHO RED CROSS IS ONE OF THE ORGANIZATIONALLY WEAKER HEALTH INSTITUTIONS IN LESOTHO.

B. DUE TO WORLD POPULATION YEAR, LESOTHO'S SEVERE POPULATION PRESSURE, AND GOL'S HEIGHTENED INTEREST IN POPULATION MATTERS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION INTERESTED IN FP PROGRAMS IN LESOTHO HAVE VIRTUALLY BEEN TRIPPING OVER EACH OTHER IN PAST YEAR. THE FPIA VISIT LEADING TO PROPOSAL (DURING ABSENCE AID OFFICER) WAS REPORTEDLY ONE OF THE LEAST IMPRESSIVE. AOPARENTLY VERY LITTLE CONTACT WAS MADE WITH LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS.

C. PROPOSAL ENVISAGES, AND WEAKNESS LRC WOULD NECESSITATE,
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CLOSE COORDINATION WITH AND ASSISTANCE FROM OTHER ORGANIZATIONS.

HAVE SEEN LITTLE EVIDENCE YET OF COORDINATION.

D. BUDGET IN PROPOSAL SEEMS DIRECTED MORE AT OVERALL BUDGETARY SUPPORT OF LRC RATHER THAN SUPPORT OF PROJECT.

EM THERE ARE A NUMBER OF FP ACTIVITIES IN LESOTHO EITHER ON-GOING OR BEING DEVELOPED. IT SEEMS THAT WITH DOWNSTATE TRAINING OF LRC STAFF, MUCH OF PROJECT COULD BE UNDERTAKEN WITH ASSISTANCE FROM THESE OTHER ACTIVITIES AND WITHOUT SPECIFIC PROJECT.

4. IN SPECIFIC:

A. ALL ORGANIZATIONS MAINTAINING CLINICS IN LESOTHO RECEIVE PL 480 ASSISTANCE FOR PRE-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES. LRC IS CONSIDERED WEAKEST OF ALL PARTICIPATING. PROPOSAL ESTIMATE THAT IT HANDLES 39 PC OF PRE-SCHOOL RECEPIENTS IS OVERSTATED. ACTUAL FIGURE IS CLOSER TO 12 PC. BELIEVE OTHER FIGURES ALSO OFF. AT LEAST 2 CLINICS HAVE CLOSED SINCE PREPARATION OF ORGANIZATIONAL CHART IN PROPOSAL. OTHERS ARE VERY POOR. ONE VISITED THIS MONTH HAS NOT RECEIVED VACCINES IN MORE THAN A YEAR.

B. OBJECTIVES IN PROPOSAL SUMMARY DOUBTFUL. 100 NEW ACCEPTORS IN 9 MONTHS WOULD BE OPTIMISTIC. PROPOSAL ESTIMATES 900.

C. SALARIES IN BUDGET CALLED "PART-TIME" APPEAR TO BE TOPPING UP OF SALARIES OF EXISTING STAFF EXCEPT FOR ADMIN ASST AT BOTTOM OF LIST. R.N. ADMIN ASST. (ADDED AFTER FIRST DRAFT SENT TO LRC BY FPJA) AT R 5,625 COMPARES WITH ANNUAL SALARY OF R 3,204 FOR CHIEF MATRON IN MINISTRY OF HEALTH. ITEMS C AND D OF BUDGET APPEAR QUITE LARGE IN VIEW SIZE OF PROJECT.

5. CONCLUSIO: WITH LESOTHO FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION, AID SUPPORTED MCH PROJECT, SCOTT HOSPITAL AND CRS ACTIVE IN THIS AREA, BELIEVE LRC HAS OPPORTUNITY TO DRAW ON THESE ORGANIZATIONS IN UTILIZING NURSES TRAINED AT DOWNSTATE TO INITIATE FP ACTIVITIES WITHOUT SPECIAL PROJECT. INITIAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ACTIVITIES, POSSIBLY SUPPORTED BY SPECIAL POPULATION FUND, NIGHT DEMONSTRATE NEED FOR (AND CAPACITY TO USE EFFECTIVELY) ADDITIONAL FUNDING. ANOTHER POSSIBILITY TO CONSIDER WOULD BE FORMAL INCLUSION OF ANOTHER LOCAL ORGANIZATION (SUCH AS LFPA) IN PROJECT. IN ANY CASE, MASERU WOULD APPRECIATE OPPORTUNITY TO FURTHER CHECK ON PROPOSAL, SPECIFICALLY WITH SCOTT HOSPITAL. HAUGHT

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